



**Delta Protection Commission Meeting  
Thursday, March 16, 2017**

American Legion Post 178 - Veterans Memorial Hall  
610 Saint Francis Way  
Rio Vista, CA 95691

**ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Thomson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Executive Director Erik Vink called the roll. Present at roll call: Chair Thomson, Vice-Chair Villegas, Commissioners Winn, Burgis, Lofthus, Banales, van Loben Sels, Nomellini (for Scriven), White (for Kelly), Tjernell (for Laird), Lester-Moffitt (for Ross) and ex-officio Commissioner Frazier. Commissioner Bugsch arrived at 5:54 pm and Commissioner Nottoli arrived at 6:17 p.m. Absent with no alternate present: Commissioners Ferguson and Cabaldon.

A quorum was established with eleven Commissioners present at roll call.

Chair Thomson welcomed new Commissioner Juan Banales.

**3. Welcome and Public Comment - Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission Regarding Items Not on the Agenda**

Frank Morgan (Discovery Bay) commented on Delta waterway closures during flood flows, and Barbara Daly (Clarksburg) commented on the National Geographic TV special on California water and advised the Commissioners that her group, North Delta C.A.R.E.S., had recently submitted two letters regarding financing of Delta levees.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**4. Approval of January 19, 2017 meeting minutes**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner Burgis and seconded by Vice-Chair Villegas to approve the January 19, 2017 meeting minutes; in a voice vote, the motion passed with 11 "aye" votes.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**5. Receive Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Vink provided an update on the Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District Feasibility Study, noting a subcommittee meeting was held on February 16 in Sacramento, six comment letters were received on the draft report, and that the next subcommittee meeting is April 17 in Sacramento; provided a timeline for the Delta

Conservancy Proposition 1 grant process; discussed the Commission's proposed FY 17-18 state budget; and welcomed new staff member Stacy Hayden and bid farewell to Commission Clerk Jeannie Matthews.

Chair Thomson asked for public comment and there was none.

**6. Receive Delta Protection Advisory Committee report**

DPAC Chair Mark Pruner reported that the Committee would receive a briefing from Congressman Garamendi on the 2016 federal water legislation; the briefing will be March 24 in Walnut Grove. He also mentioned the expiring terms of many of the Committee members and the anticipated process for appointing/reappointing members.

Chair Thomson asked for public comment and there was none.

**7. Receive presentation on Delta Watermaster Activities**

Delta Watermaster Michael George reported on his office's efforts to oversee research on methods to estimate evapotranspiration rates in crops; gave an overview of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) CA WaterFix hearings and the Phase 1 Update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan; noted the importance of the new Climate Change Policy adopted by SWRCB; reviewed recent Delta Stewardship Council actions to update the Delta Plan; noted the local challenges with SB 88 which mandates measurement of water diversions; and gave an overview of a recent complaint on water rights. Commissioner Nottoli asked about the burden of proof in water rights cases and Commissioner Winn thanked the Watermaster for his presentations in other forums.

Chair Thomson asked for public comment and there was none.

**8. Receive presentation on 2017 Delta Flood Season**

Executive Director Vink briefly introduced the panel composed of Michael Cockrell, San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services; Chris Neudeck, Kjeldsen Sinnock and Neudeck, Inc.; Steve Mello, Reclamation District 563; and David Mraz, DWR Delta Levees Office. Each discussed their respective work during January and February 2017 in response to flood events. The importance of the Delta Levees Subventions program was highlighted.

Commissioner Nomellini commented on the systemwide nature of the Delta levees and the DSC's proposed levee investment strategy.

Chair Thomson asked for public comment; Matt Conover (Walnut Grove) commented on the flooding on McCormack-Williamson Tract and the Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services alert system.

- 9. Receive presentation on 2017 Update to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP)**  
Executive Director Vink offered a draft comment letter for discussion as prepared by Acting Assistant Executive Director Natasha Nelson and following on the Commission's discussion of this item at its January 19, 2017 meeting.

Chair Thomson asked for public comment and there was none.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner Nomellini and seconded by Commissioner Bugsch to approve the draft letter presented in the Commission meeting packet; in a voice vote, the letter was approved by a vote of 12-0-1 (all Commission members present voting "aye" except for Commissioner Tjernell, who abstained).

- 10. Consider designation of Great Delta Trail segments**

At the request of Chair Thomson, this item is postponed to the May 18, 2017 Commission meeting.

- 11. Consider approval of letter to Governor and legislators regarding allocation of Proposition 1 Delta levees funding**

Executive Director Vink discussed the DWR FY 2016-17 and 2017-18 budget requests to the Legislature to appropriate the entire \$295 million included for Delta levees in Proposition 1, and offered a draft comment letter for review. Commissioner Tjernell indicated there is still work to be done and the funding allocated by the Governor to systemwide flood risk reduction projects will mean significant peak stage reductions (water height) in the system. Commissioner Nomellini indicated his group opposed the DWR proposed allocations and did not want Delta levee programs to be cheated out of funds. Commissioner Nottoli pointed out the importance of funding levee work in the Delta. Commissioners Nomellini and Nottoli were supportive of the letter.

Chair Thomson asked for public comment and there was none.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner Nomellini and seconded by Commissioner Nottoli to approve the proposed letter, with amended wording to reflect the Commission's vote; in a roll call vote, the letter was approved with 9 "aye" votes (Chair Thomson, Vice-Chair Villegas and Commissioners Winn, Burgis, Nottoli, Lofthus, Banales, van Loben Sels and Nomellini), 3 "no" votes (Commissioners White, Tjernell and Lester-Moffitt) and one abstention (Commissioner Bugsch).

- 12. Commissioner comments/announcements**

Ex-officio Commissioner Frazier announced the creation of the Delta Caucus in the California Legislature and the introduction of bills relating to CA WaterFix and Delta Levees Subventions. In response to a question from Chair Thomson about the CA WaterFix financial audit requested by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee in August 2016, Assemblyman

Frazier said he would gather that information and report back. The next Commission meeting will be on May 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Isleton.

**13. Adjourn**

Chair Thomson adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.